

St. John's Lutheran 4:30 9/15/66

Processional Hymn 30

\*Call to Worship Ps. 100

Confession of Sin  
Assurance of Pardon  
Psalm 100 Proverbs 1

\*Gloria Patri

\*Apostles Creed

\*Pastoral Prayer

Anthem 447

Announcements

YOUTH FELLOWS 6:15

EVERYTHING SOLD AT SALE IN

KIA BY LADIES AND

LADIES AND TUES 7:00

Offering, Response, Prayer

Hymn 307

Sermon

Prayer Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn 309

\*Benediction

\*Threefold Amen

\*Postlude

St. John's Lutheran 11:00 9/15/66

\*Processional Hymn 266

\*Initiation Affirmation

\*Choral Response

\*Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading Ps. 63 Gal. 3

Hymn 277

Scripture Proverbs 1

\*Gloria Patri

\*Apostles Creed

\*Pastoral Prayer Response

Interim

Interim Cantata

Offering, Prayer

\*Hymn 273

Sermon

Prayer Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn 286

\*Benediction

\*Threefold Amen

\*Postlude

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR

Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.  
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

AUGUST 30, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude  
\*Hymn 42  
\*Solemn Declaration  
\*Call to Worship  
\*Confession of Sin - page 4, 1st. prayer  
\*Kyrie  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
Scripture Proverbs :: Chapter 4  
\*Gloria Patri  
\*Statement of Faith (front of Hymnal)  
Pastoral Prayer  
Announcements  
Hymn 452  
Sermon "A Lesson for Sons and Daughters"  
Text Proverbs 4 :: vs. 3  
Offering  
\*Doxology (Trinity)  
\*Offering Response (Christ Church)  
\*Prayer and Lord's Prayer  
\*Hymn 446  
\*Benediction  
\*Threefold Amen  
Postlude  
\*Congregation Standing

The Congregation of Christ Church will hold a chicken Bar-B-Que, Sept. 6, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the cottage of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hepfer. Will ALL who plan to attend PLEASE give your name and number attending to Paul Hepfer or Russel Kiner so proper arrangements can be completed.

The Women's Missionary Group of Christ Church are selling Sympathy, Birthday, and, Get-Well cards. Anyone having need for such cards please contact Mrs. Lawson Steele, or, any member of this Association.

The Blue Ridge Quartette will be at Susquenita High School, Monday evening, August 31, at 8:00 O'clock. Tickets will be available at the door.

We will be starting a Confirmation Class in the Fall for Boys and Girls twelve (12) years of age and older. Will Parents or anyone knowing of eligible Youth please contact the Pastor (tel. 582-4798) or the Sunday School Superintendent of either Church so that proper arrangements can be made for this Class?

Will the members of both Trinity Church and Christ Church PLEASE give any announcements they wish printed in the bulletin to Pastor Link by Thursday Noon of each week???

### A Lesson For Sons and Daughters

Proverbs 4:3 I too was once a son with a father, in my mothers eyes a tender child, unique.

The thing that I think is utterly amazing, is the fact that the more I read the Bible and ponder over it's words, the more I am convinced that the writers were speaking to us. To our generation. To our day. It doesn't seem as though it is ancient history at all, but that their problems are our problems today. Perhaps ours are more multiplied because of the vast population. But here is where we come to the part of saying that the scriptures were written by inspired men of God. This I believe is borne out by the fact that the words written for an earlier age are just as true today. Our scripture for this morning tells us quite a bit about some of the problems of their day. If we listened closely perhaps we could hear our voices raised along with the writer, telling our children how to behave and live. But we better look at the book of Proverbs and then maybe we will know some of the background and perhaps we will understand it a little better.

To begin with the book is one of those very rarely used for the basis of a sermon. Yet this to me is unusual, because of the contents of the book. However if we read the proverbs in the King James version and then read it in the newer translations of the Bible, the words seem to acquire new meaning. In fact the meaning is clearer. This is not to knock the King James version of the Bible, but the old english which is used is confusing to most of us. One of the things that has been found out about the newer versions is the fact that more people can understand what they are reading than they ever could with the King James version.

But getting back to the Proverbs. The book starts off with a long introduction in which a father commends wisdom to his son. This is then followed by the body of the book which is made up of two collections. The first is called the Proverbs of Solomon, and the second is called the Proverbs of Solomon transcribed by the men of Hezekiah. Now according to I Kings 5:12, Solomon was the author of three thousand proverbs, and he was considered to be the greatest

sage of Israel. The Biblical scholars who compiled the Jerusalem Bible have placed an introduction to Proverbs and they state, "The impersonal accent of the proverbs makes it impossible to assign any particular maxim to the king, but there is no reason to doubt that this collection as a whole dates from his time."

It goes on to say that the second collection of proverbs in the book which are supposed to be the proverbs of Solomon transcribed by the men of Hezekiah, were already ancient maxims when the men of Hezekiah collected them in around 700 B.C. The writings of the introduction makes scholars think that it was written around the fifth century, two hundred years later. So you see it was not compiled all at once. The book closes with an epilogue which in this case is an alphabetical poem in praise of an ideal wife.

Now if we look at the words of this proverb we see that the father is more or less trying to reason with his sons. He tells them to listen because what he is giving to them is sound doctrine. He reminds them that, "I too was once a son with a father, in my mother's eyes a tender child unique. How familiar these words may seem to some of us. Many times when we try to reason with our children they can't accept what we have to say because it is hard for them to believe that we ourselves were once children. Our children seem to think that we must have been born adults. Therefore we don't know the problems that children have. This problem must have been just as prominent in Biblical times as it is today. So how do we come with it? The answer is that we can't. We can only hope that what we try to instill in our children will have a lasting effect on their lives. In a nature study class the children were taught how the birds learned to fly. After the lesson the new young teacher said that they would have a flying lesson of their own. She went to the piano and played a song and at a given chord they began waving their arms as though they were flying. All except little Johnny. What's the matter Johnny asked the teacher, don't you want to imitate a newly hatched bird?"Aw, said Johnny, I ain't hatched yet. I'm a bad egg."

It has been a known fact that most of the kids who go wrong come from a bad home, or from a bad home life. In studies made the kids who were always in trouble or in a jam usually had no religious training or teaching in their homes.

Religion must play some part in the life of a child. It must help keep most of them on the right track. How else can we explain the statistics? We can't. But we can continue to try to give this religion to our children. Not only in the home but in church and in the school. Perhaps we can't teach them religion in the classroom. But those of us who are teachers can show them what we believe in by how we conduct ourselves and our classes. We never know what kind of an impression we leave on children. So we must continue to instill in all those children we have contact with the proper values and the right way of life.

This scripture also seems to give the impression that this teaching is a bit old fashioned. Have your children ever made you feel as though you belonged to the stone age? I heard many times from different people that this took place as your children grew older. However I felt that this was sometime in the far, far future. However the other evening the kids were in the living room doing their homework and I heard the boys talking about mathematics. Dale asked Lloyd if he knew how to do his mathematics. He used some of the terms such as, positive and negative integers, absolute value and additive inverses. You are looking at one of the cave men. I not only never heard of these things when I went to school much less know how to do them. This is nothing to our kids. They know all about it. This is probably one of the main problems of our society today. We cannot communicate between parents and children. We cannot meet on common ground. Our children are much more advanced than we old people ever were when we were their age. They are more intelligent in many ways. However the old values still remain the same. They always will be the same. These are the values of right and wrong. This means obedience and discipline. Perhaps some of our troubles today are caused by parents recognizing the superior intelligence of their children and they may feel inferior and therefore neglect these values. But children are the same as they ever were. They need guidance and they need to be given the basics of getting along in life.

Another verse in <sup>ANOTHER</sup> Proverbs says, "Instruct a child in the way he should go, and when he grows old he will not leave it." This still comes back to the old time values. With them we stand a chance of having a decent law abiding



society in the future. Without them we will have the type of citizens we have seen too much of the past few months. The beatniks and the hippies and the vibries are the result of the lack of proper parental authority. Some of them come from decent homes. But for the most part they are the members of a minority. They are the ones who have the feeling that someone owes them something. Some parents have tried to follow the teaching of Dr. Spock and this philosophy is to refrain from using the stick and to use other means <sup>OF DISCIPLINARY</sup> ~~on~~ the child. The last time I saw Dr. Spock on television he had been convicted of trying to get young men to evade the draft. Many of these wild young men and ladies of society are a direct result of his teaching. So it seems the teacher and his pupils are very much in the same situation. Which is not unexpected.

A little boy told his mother to go away because he wanted to talk to God. "Is it something you can't tell me", asked the mother? "No", he said, "But you will just scold and scold and God will forgive me and forget about it." He said, how this should be the attitude we have. All of us need the wisdom which we heard spoken of in the scripture this morning. The wisdom of knowing what to do with our children and the wisdom of forgiving and forgetting. What started out to be a message on the scripture we read from Proverbs, may seem to have taken on the tone of a message on how to raise children. But this is not my intent or purpose. The scripture brought to my mind the similarity between our age and the age when this proverb was written. We see the good and bad examples all around us in our daily lives. We read about them in the papers, and we see them on t.v. How these problems can be met or solved is not an easy task. If they are or have been in the world for centuries the solutions must not be easy to come by. But if we look around us and see the families who have raised children who have turned out to be decent law abiding men and women. And then if we look closely and see whether religion or church played a major part in the lives of these families. We can see that the church and religion must <sup>OR PLAY A MAJOR ROLE</sup> have an effect for the raising of a family. So therefore we are not wrong or wasting our efforts if we try to continue to have Sunday school as well as church. Perhaps some of you may not be aware that there is a movement underfoot to abolish Sunday school as we know it. In fact there is an experiment going on at the

present time, where the Bible is being taught in some of our colleges and universities. I believe Pennsylvania is one of the states in which the test is being made. If this plan works then it will become part of the curriculum of almost all colleges throughout the nation. The purpose is this: to teach and treat the Bible as a work of literature, and with the studying of it, the students will get more Bible in one semester than they receive in a childhood of going to Sunday school. At least this is what the authorities behind this thinking would have us believe. They tell us if this experiment works then there will be no need for Sunday School. But I still think and feel that we need Sunday School for the simple reason that not every child will go to college. Not every child will elect the Bible course, if it is not a required course. We still need Sunday school because the hour that is spent there is all the religion some kids receive from week to week. So let us strive to keep our Sunday schools alive. Let us be willing workers and teachers. Let us continue to look upon it as doing something for the Lord. There are times in all of our lives when we feel we would rather be doing something else besides study a lesson for Sunday. Sure we would like to be watching t.v. or just relaxing. But let us not forget, that we are not doing this for ourselves, but for God.

The words of the writer of this proverb may today fall upon deaf ears or perhaps half listening ears, but they need repetition. We can each one say as he did, "I too was once a son (or daughter) with a father," and maybe those we are trying to reach may look bored or uninterested, but we must continue to try to instruct as best we can, so that those children we have as our own, or we teach in a class, or we lead in scouts, or brownies, or some other group, may grow to be Christian men and women and take their place as responsible citizens of this nation and the world. Only then can we stop this wildness that has crept into our society. Only then can we overcome the evil influence of the world. Because then we will have some Christ centered men and women ready and able to take on the reins of government, of business, and of professions. May God give each of us the ability to be the proper kind of parents, teachers and leaders of youth. Let us pray.